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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication: 19.03.1997 Bulletin 1997/12

(21) Application number: 96113930.0

(22) Date of filing: 30.08.1996

(51) Int. CI.⁶: **C07K 14/195**, C12N 9/10, C12N 15/31, C12N 15/54, C12N 15/63, C12N 1/21

- (84) Designated Contracting States: BE CH DE FR GB IT LI SE
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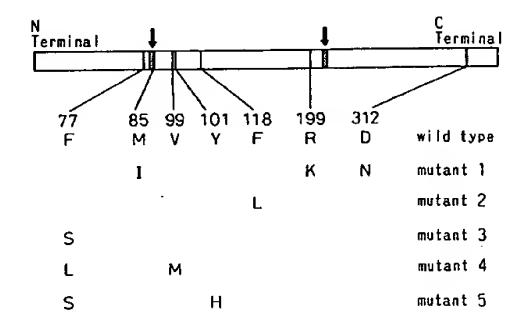
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(54) Long-chain prenyl diphosphate synthase

(57) The present invention discloses a mutated enzyme comprising a geranylgeranil diphosphate synthase having its origin in wild type <u>Sulfolobus acido-caldarius</u> wherein, one of at least phenylalanine at

position 77, methionine at position 85, valine at position 99, tyrosine at position 101, phenylalanine at position 118, arginine at position 199 and aspartic acid at position 312 is substituted with another amino acid.

Fig. 1



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BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

1. Field of Invention

The present invention relates to a mutant prenyl diphosphate synthase that is able to synthesize prenyl diphosphate having a longer chain than prenyl diphosphate synthesized by the native prenyl diphosphate synthase.

10 2. Related Art

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Prenyl diphosphate is highly valuable in biosynthesis pathways, functioning as a precursor of steroids, a precursor of caratenoids, being a transition substrate of prenylated proteins, being a substrate for synthesis of vitamin E, vitamin K and ubiquinone (CoQ) and so forth. Prenyl diphosphate exists in various forms, including dimethylallyl diphosphate (DMAPP; C5), geranyl diphosphate (GPP; C10), farnesyl diphosphate (FPP; C15), geranylgeranyl diphosphate (GGPP; C20), geranylfarnesyl diphosphate (GFPP; C25), hexaprenyl diphosphate (HPP; C30), heptaprenyl diphosphate (HPP; C35) and octaprenyl diphosphate (OPP; C40).

Prenyl transferases, which synthesize these prenyl diphosphates, are enzymes that form prenyl diphosphate by continuously condensing isopentenyl diphosphate (IPP; C5) into allylic diphosphate, and exist in various forms, including farnesyl diphosphate synthase (FPS), geranylgeranyl diphosphate synthase (GGPS), geranylfarnesyl diphosphate synthase (HepPS) and octaprenyl diphosphate synthase (OPS).

However, among the above-mentioned prenyl diphosphates, only those from dimethylallyl diphosphate having 5 carbon atoms to geranyl diphosphate having 20 carbon atoms are commercially available in small amounts as reagents, and a process for industrially synthesizing and recovering large amounts of prenyl diphosphates having longer chains is not known.

The carbon chain length and stereoisomerism of synthesized prenyl diphosphates are known to be specifically determined depending on the particular enzyme. Until now, it has not been clear what type of mechanism is the factor in determining carbon chain length.

Although prenyl transferases and their genes are known to be derived from bacteria, mold, plants and animals, these enzyme are typically unstable, difficult to handle and are not expected to be industrially valuable.

The prenyl transferases and their genes of thermophilic organisms, which are stable and easy to use as enzymes, are only farnesyl diphosphate synthase (FPS) (Koyama, T. et al. (1995) J. Biol. Chem. 113, 355-363) and heptaprenyl diphosphate synthase (HepPS) (Koike-Takeshita, A. et al. (1995) J. Biol. Chem. 270, 18396-18400) from the moderately thermophilic archaebacterium, <u>Bacillus stearothermophilus</u>; geranylgeranyl diphosphate synthase (GGPS) from the hyper thermophilic bacterium, <u>Sulfolobus acidocaldarius</u> (Ohnuma, S.-i. et al. (1994) J. Biol. Chem. 268, 14792-14797); as well as farnesyl diphosphate/geranylgeranyl diphosphate synthase (FPS/GGPS) from the methane-producing archaebacterium, <u>Methanobacterium thermoautotrophicum</u> (Chen, A. and Poulter, C.D. (1993) J. Biol. Chem. 268, 11002-11007). Only HepPS can synthesize prenyl diphosphate having 35 carbon atoms, and enzymes having thermal stability that synthesize prenyl diphosphates having 25 or more carbon atoms have not been reported. In addition, the abovementioned HepPS does not have adequate heat resistance, is composed of two types of subunits, and handling is not always easy.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

Thus, the present invention provides a thermostable prenyl diphosphate synthase capable of synthesizing long-chain prenyl diphosphate, a process for its production, and a method for using said enzyme.

In order to create an enzyme that can synthesize prenyl diphosphate having a longer chain length, the inventors of the present invention succeeded in creating a mutant enzyme able to synthesize prenyl diphosphate having a longer chain than naturally-occurring geranylgeranyl diphosphate synthase by treating DNA coding for geranylgeranyl diphosphate synthase with a mutation agent, introducing the above-mentioned treated DNA into the yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae, deficient for hexaprenyl diphosphate synthase activity, and selecting a mutant DNA that can complement the above-mentioned deficient, and moreover, elucidated the relationship between the mutation site in the enzyme and the chain length of the prenyl diphosphate that is formed, thereby leading to completion of the present invention.

Thus, the present invention provides a mutant enzyme wherein, least one of phenylalanine residue at position 77, methionine residue at position 85, valine residue at position 99, tyrosine residue at position 101, phenylalanine residue at position 118, Arginine residue at position 199 and aspartic acid residue at position 312 in a geranylgeranyl diphosphate synthase of <u>Sulfolobus acidocaldarius</u> origin is substituted with another amino acid, and which enzyme can synthesize prenyl diphosphate having at least 25 carbon atoms.

Moreover, the present invention provides a gene system that codes for the above-mentioned enzyme, and a process for producing the above-mentioned enzyme using that gene system.

Furthermore, the present invention provides a process for producing a mutant prenyl diphosphate synthase comprising the steps of culturing a host transformed with a gene in which the codon for phenylalanine residue located at the fifth N-terminal side position from the N-terminal amino acid of the aspartate-rich domain I in a gene that codes for the native enzyme, is converted to a codon for a non-aromatic amino acid, thereby enabling the expression of a mutant enzyme that is able to synthesize prenyl diphosphates having a longer chain than the longest chain of prenyl diphosphate synthase.

In addition, the present invention provides a process for producing long-chain prenyl diphosphate using the above-mentioned enzyme.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 indicates the mutation site of the present invention in the geranyl diphosphate synthase derived from <u>Sulfolobus</u> <u>acidocaldarius</u>. The arrows in the drawing indicate two aspartate-rich domains.

Fig. 2 is photograph that indicates the autoradiograph of a thin layer chromatography which shows the products in the case of allowing the mutant enzymes of the present invention produced in yeast to act on substrates IPP and (all-E)-FPP. The ellipses show the positions of cold authentic samples, which are geraniol, farnesyl, and geranilgeranil for a, b and c respectively

Fig. 3 is a photograph that indicates the autoradiograph of a thin layer chromatography which shows the products in the case of allowing the mutant enzyme of the present invention produced in yeast to act on substrates IPP and (all-E)-GGPP. The ellipses show the positions of cold authentic samples, which are geraniol, farnesyl, and geranilgeranil for a, b and c respectively

Fig. 4 is a photograph that indicates the autoradiograph of a thin layer chromatography which shows the products in the case of allowing the mutant enzyme of the present invention produced in <u>E. coli</u> to act on (A) substrates IPP and DMAPP, and on (B) substrates IPP and GPP. The ellipses show the positions of cold authentic samples, which are geraniol, farnesyl, and geranilgeranil for a, b and c respectively.

Fig. 5 is the autoradiograph of a photograph that indicates a thin layer chromatography which shows the products in the case of allowing the mutant enzyme of the present invention produced in <u>E. coli</u> to act on (A) substrates IPP and (all-E)-FPP, and on (B) substrates IPP and (all-E)-GGPP. The ellipses show the positions of cold authentic samples, which are geraniol, farnesyl, and geranilgeranil for a, b and c respectively.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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As a specific example in the present invention, a geranylgeranyl diphosphate synthase (GGPS) gene of the hyper thermophilic archaebacterium,

<u>Sulfolobus acidocaldarius</u>, is used for the starting material. The cloning method of this gene is described in detail in the specification of Japanese Patent Application No. 6-315572. In addition, another example for cloning the gene is described in the present specification as Example 1, and a nucleotide sequence and an amino acid sequence encoded thereby are shown as SEQ ID NO: 1.

In the present invention, a cloned DNA is mutated in vitro. Although chemical treatment using a mutagen, or physical treatment using UV light or X-rays can be used for the mutation means, chemical treatment is convenient to carry out. Any routinely used chemical mutagen can be used for the mutagenesis for the present invention, an example of which is nitrite.

A specific example of mutagenesis is shown in Example 2.

The mutagenized DNA is inserted into a yeast expression vector to prepare a DNA library. Any vector that is able to express an inserted extraneous gene in the yeast can be used as an expression vector, examples of which include a yeast plasmid such as pYEUra3 (available from Clonetech) and pYES2 (available from Invitrogen).

The resulting plasmid library is introduced into a yeast mutant strain defective for the ability to synthesize hexaprenyl diphosphate, which is one of the precursors of coenzyme Q6. Since this mutant strain is unable to synthesize coenzyme Q6 necessary for non-fermentative sugar metabolism, it cannot be grown in medium that contains glycerol as the sole carbon source. Thus, if the yeast transformed by the above-mentioned library is cultured in glycerol medium and the strains that grow are selected, strains can be selected that have acquired the ability to synthesize prenyl diphosphate having a large number of carbon atoms for coenzyme Q synthesis.

Five positive clones were obtained in this manner from approximately 1400 transformants. As a result of purifying the plasmids from these clones, determining the nucleotide sequence of the inserted fragment, and predicting amino acid sequences that are coded, each mutant had changes in the amino acid sequence as indicated below.

Mutant 1: Methionine at position 85 changed to isoleucine, arginine at position 199 changed to lysine, aspartic acid

at position 312 changed to Asn

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Mutant 2: Phenylalanine at position 118 changed to leucine

Mutant 3: Phenylalanine at position 77 changed to serine

Mutant 4: Phenylanine at position 77 changed to leucine and valine at position 99 changed to methionine

Mutant 5: Phenylalanine at position 77 changed to serine and tyrosine at position 101 changed to histidine

In contrast to wild-type enzymes being unable to synthesize prenyl diphosphate having at least 25 carbon atoms, enzymes having amino acid sequences containing these changes were able to synthesize prenyl diphosphate having 25 or more carbon atoms. Those amino acid sequences having the above-mentioned amino acid substitutions are shown in SEQ ID NOs: 2 to 6.

Thus, it can be logically surmised that if an amino acid at any one of the above-mentioned positions is replaced with another amino acid, a prenyl diphosphate having more carbon atoms than that synthesized by the native enzyme can be synthesized. Thus, the present invention provides a mutant enzyme in which at least one amino acid from among phenylalanine at position 77, methionine at position 85, valine at position 99, tyrosine at position 101, phenylalanine at position 118, arginine at position 199 and aspartic acid at position 312 is replaced with another amino acid, and said enzyme is able to synthesize prenyl diphosphate having at least 25 carbon atoms.

Particularly in the case that phenylalanine at position 77 is replaced with another amino acid, and preferably a non-aromatic amino acid such as serine or leucine, that enzyme is able to synthesize prenyl diphosphate having at least 25 carbon atoms. Thus, in one embodiment, the present invention provides an enzyme in which at least phenylalanine at position 77 is replaced with another amino acid such as serine, leucine or another non-aromatic amino acid This type at enzyme includes enzymes in which replaced amino acids are present at one or a plurality of the other above-mentioned positions. Examples at other amino acid positions include valine at position 99 and/or tyrosine at position 101.

Thus, the present invention includes enzymes in which only phenylalanine at position 77 is replaced, enzymes in which phenylalanine at position 77 and valine at position 99 are replaced, enzymes in which phenylalanine at position 77, valine at position 99 and tyrosine at position 101 are replaced, and enzymes in which phenylalanine at position 77 and one or a plurality of amino acids at the above-mentioned positions are replaced.

According to another mode of the present invention, an enzyme in which methionine at position 85, arginine at position 199 and aspartic acid at position 312 are replaced with other amino acids is also able to synthesize prenyl diphosphate having at least 25 carbon atoms. Thus, the present invention, in another embodiment, includes an enzyme in which at least methionine at position 85, arginine at position 199 and aspartic acid at position 312 are replaced with other amino acids. In this embodiment, enzymes in which methionine at position 85, arginine at position 199 and aspartic acid at position 312 are replaced, as well as enzymes containing amino acid replacements at one or a plurality of sites other than at these sites or the above-mentioned mutation sites, are included.

According to still another embodiment of the present invention, an enzyme in which phenylalanine at position 118 is replaced with another amino acid can also synthesize prenyl diphosphate having at least 25 carbon atoms. Thus, in another embodiment, the present invention includes enzymes in which at least the amino acid at position 118 is replaced with another amino acid. In this embodiment, enzymes in which the amino acid at position 118 is replaced with another amino acid, as well as enzymes containing amino acid replacements at one or a plurality of positions of the above-mentioned amino acid replacement positions, are included.

Enzymes are known to have those own specificities of enzyme activities even in the case of being modified by addition, removal and/or replacement of one or a few amino acids. Thus, in addition to the peptides having the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs: 2 to 6, the present invention also includes enzymes that the same specificity while having an amino acid sequence that is changed by replacing, deleting and/or adding one or a few, such as up to 5 or up to 10, amino acids with respect to the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID Nos: 2 to 6.

Two aspartate-rich domains (sites indicated with arrows in Fig. 1) are conserved in various prenyl transferases, and the diphosphate site of the substrate is thought to bind to these sites. Phenylalanine at position 77 exists at the 5th position upstream to the N-terminal side from the N-terminal of aspartate-rich domain 1 present on the N-terminal side among these two aspartate-rich domains. This phenylalanine is replaced with a non-aromatic amino acid in 3 of the 5 mutants of the present invention.

Thus, in order to synthesize prenyl diphosphate having a large number of carbon atoms, for example that having 25 or more carbon atoms, if phenylalanine at about the fifth position upstream to the N-terminal side from the amino acid of the N-terminal of aspartate-rich domain I is replaced with another amino acid, for example a non-aromatic amino acid, even in the case of a prenyl transferase other than the prenyl transferase derived from <u>Sulfolobus acidocaldarius</u> having the amino acid sequence indicated in Sequence No. 1, an enzyme is obtained that is able to synthesize prenyl diphosphate having a larger number of carbon atoms than the wild type enzyme.

Thus, the present invention provides a process for producing a mutant prenyl transferase characterized by replacing phenylalanine at the 5th position upstream to the N-terminal side from the amino acid of the N-terminal of aspartate-rich domain I of prenyl transferase. This amino acid replacement can be performed by changing the codon that codes

for that amino acid.

In addition, the present invention provides a gene coding for the various above-mentioned mutant enzymes, a vector comprising that gene, particularly an expression vector, and a host transformed with said vector. The gene (DNA) of the present invention can be easily obtained by introducing a mutation into DNA that codes for the wild type amino acid sequence indicated in SEQ ID NO: 1, according to routine methods such as site-directed mutagenesis or PCR.

Moreover, once the amino acid sequence of the target enzyme has been determined, a suitable nucleotide sequence that codes for it can be determined, thus making the mutant is possible to chemically synthesize DNA by conventional DNA synthesis methods.

In addition, the present invention provides an expression vector comprising the DNA as described above, hosts transformed with said expression vector, and a process for producing an enzyme or peptide of the present invention using these hosts.

Although expression vectors contain an origin of replication, expression control sequence and so forth, these vary according to the host, Examples of hosts include procaryotes, examples of which include bacteria such as <u>E. coli</u> and <u>Bacillus</u> sp. including <u>Bacillus</u>; eucaryotes, examples of which include yeasts such as <u>Saccharomyces</u> sp. including <u>S. cerevisiae</u>, and <u>Pichia</u> sp. including <u>Pichia pastoris</u>; molds, examples of which include <u>Aspergillus</u> sp. such as <u>A. oryzae</u> and <u>A. niger</u>; animal cells, examples of which include cultured cells and cultured cells of higher animals, such as CHO cells. In addition, it is also possible to use plants for the host.

According to the present invention, as indicated in Examples, geranylfarnesyl diphosphate can be accumulated in the culture by culturing a host transformed by the DNA of the present invention, and geranylfarnesyl diphosphate can be produced by recovering it from the culture. Also according to the present invention, geranylfarnesyl diphosphate can be produced by allowing the mutant GGPP synthase produced according to the process of the present invention to act on the isopentenyl diphosphate substrate and each allylic substrate such as farnesyl diphosphate.

In an example of using \underline{E} , coli for the host, gene regulation of gene expression is known to exist such as in the process of transcribing mRNA from DNA and the process of translating protein from mRNA. In addition to those sequences present in nature (e.g. lac, trp, bla, lpp, P_L , P_R , ter, T3 and T7 as promoters), sequences in which their mutants (e.g. lacUV5) are artificially joined with wild type promoter sequences (e.g. tac, trc) are known as examples of promoter sequences that regulate mRNA transcription, and these can also be used in the present invention.

It is known that the ribosome binding site (GAGG and other similar sequences) sequence and the distance to the initiation codon are important as sequences that regulate the activity to translate the mRNA to synthesize proteins. In addition, it is also well known that the terminator, which commands termination of transcription on the 3'-end (e.g. a vector containing rmPT₁T₂ is commercially available from Pharmacia), has an effect on protein synthesis efficiency in the recombinant.

Although commercially available products can be used as is for the vector that can be used for preparation of the recombinant vector of the present invention, various types of vectors induced according to a specific purpose can also be used. Examples of these include pBR322, pBR327, pKK223-3, pKK233-2 and pTrc99, originating in pMB1 and having the replicon, pUC18, pUC19, pUC118, pUC119, pBluescript, pHSG298 and pHSG396, modified to improve the number of copies, pACYC177 and pACYC184, derived from p15A and having the replicon, as well as plasmids originating in pSC101, Co1E1, R1 and F factor. Moreover, expression vectors, for fused proteins, that are easier to purify, can also be used, examples of which include pGEX-2T, pGEX-3X and pMal-c2, and the example of a gene used as the starting material in the present invention is described in Japanese Patent Application No. 6-315572.

In addition, gene introduction can also be performed by using virus vectors and transposons such as λ-phages and M13 phages in addition to plasmids. In the case of gene introduction into a microorganism other than <u>E. coli</u>, gene introduction into <u>Bacillus</u> sp. is known using puB110 (sold by Sigma) or pHY300PLK (sold by Takara Shuzo). These vectors are described in Molecular Cloning (J. Sambrook, E.F. Fritsch, T Maniatis ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, pub.), Cloning Vector (P.H. Pouwels, B.E. Enger Valk, W.J. Brammar ed., Elsevier pub.) and various company catalogs.

Insertion of a DNA fragment coding for GGPP synthase and, as necessary, a DNA fragment having the function of regulating expression of the gene of the above-mentioned enzyme, into these vectors can be performed according to known methods using suitable restriction enzyme and ligase. Specific examples of plasmids of the invention prepared in this manner include pBS-GGPSmut1, PBS-GGPSmut2, pBS-GGPSmut3, pBS-GGPSmut4 and pBS-GGPSmut5.

Examples of microorganisms that can be used for gene introduction with this type of recombinant vector include <u>E. coli</u> and <u>Bacillus</u> sp. This transformation can also be performed according to routine methods such as the CaCl₂ method or protoplast method described in Molecular Cloning (J. Sambrook, E.F. Fritsch, T. Maniatis ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press pub.) and DNA Cloning Vol. I-III (D.M. Glover ed., IRL Press pub.).

In producing the mutant enzyme of the present invention, the above-mentioned transformed cell is cultured after which the mutant enzyme can be collected and purified from that culture in accordance with routine methods, examples of which include salting out, organic solvent sedimentation, gel filtration affinity chromatography, hydrophobic interaction chromatography and ion exchange chromatography.

In addition, the present invention provides a process for producing prenyl diphosphate using the enzyme of the present invention. In this process, the enzyme of the present invention should be allowed to react in a medium, and par-

ticularly an aqueous medium, and then the target prenyl diphosphate should be recovered from the reaction medium as desired. The enzyme may not only be purified enzyme, but also crude enzymes obtained by semi-purification through various stages, or a substance containing enzymes such as cultured microorganisms or the culture itself. In addition, the above-mentioned enzyme, crude enzyme or enzyme-containing substance may be an immobilized enzyme that has been immobilized in accordance with conventional methods.

Prenyl diphosphate having fewer carbon atoms than the target prenyl diphosphate, such as 5-20 carbon atoms and preferably less than 5 carbon atoms, and isopentyl diphosphate are used for the substrate. Water or an aqueous buffer, such as phosphate buffer, are used for the reaction medium,

EXAMPLES

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The following Examples provide a more detailed explanation of the present invention. Furthermore, the materials used in the following Examples can all be easily acquired by a person with ordinary skill in the art as described below. Strain C296-LH3 of the budding yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae (Tzagoloff, A. and Dieckmann, C.L. (1990) Microbiological Reviews 54, 211-255, Tzagoloff, A. et al. (1075) J. Bacteriol. 122, 826-831), was used for the screening host.

Plasmid pG3/TI (Tzagoloff, A. and Dieckmann, C.L. (1990) Microbiological Reviews 54, 211-255, Tzagoloff A. et al. (1975) J. Bacteriol. 122, 826-831, Ashby, M.N. and Edwards, P.A. (1990) J. Biol. Chem. 265, 13157-13164) or plasmid YEpG3ΔSpH, from which portions other than the HexPS coding region had been removed from pG3/TI (Ashby, M.N. and Edwards, P.A. (1990) J. Biol. Chem. 265, 13157-13164), was used for the positive control plasmid containing the HexPS gene.

Y-PGK, wherein the <u>crt</u>E gene portion had been removed from Y-<u>crt</u>E (Misawa, N. et al. (1990) J. Bacteriology 172, 6704-6712), was used for the expression vector for library preparation. <u>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</u> strain A451 was used as a wild strain used for the positive control.

However, the experimental materials required for the present invention are not limited to those described above, but rather completely similar substitutes can also be used.

Screening host mutant strain C2960-LH3 for screening is a deficient strain for the HexPS gene. In other words, a budding yeast HPS gene fragment can easily be obtained from a widely known wild strain of budding yeast by PCR using an already known budding yeast HexPS gene sequence (GenBankTM/EMBL Data Bank accession number(s) JO5547). If this gene fragment is then used by coupling with a yeast incorporating plasmid (Ylp) such as pRS403, pRS404, pRS405 or pRS406 (available from Stratagene), an HexPS-deficient strain can easily be created by widely conducted gene destruction using homologous recombination.

In addition, it also sufficient for the positive control plasmid if this gene fragment is inserted using a widely known budding yeast expression vector such as pYEUra3 (available from Clonetech) and pYES2 (available from Invitrogen). The strain used for the positive control is not limited to strain A451, but rather any strain is sufficient provided it retains the wild HexPS gene. In addition, it is sufficient to use a commercially available vector for the expression vector for library preparation such as pYEYra3 available from Clonetech or pYES2 available from Invitrogen.

LKC-18 reversed phase thin layer chromatography plates were purchased from Whatman Chemical Separation, Inc. [1-14C]IPP was purchased from Amersham.

Example 1. Plasmid Construction

New HindIII restriction enzyme sites were introduced both upstream and downstream of the GGPS gene (Gen-Bank™/EMBL Data Bank accession number D28748) of <u>Sulfolobus acidocaldarius</u> by PCR using the chemically synthesized DNA primers 5'-AAGAGAAGCTTATGAGTTACTTTGAC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 7) and 5'-GATACAAGCTTTATTTTCTCC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 8). Genomic DNA was purified in accordance with routine methods from <u>Sulfolobus acidocaldarius</u>, obtainable as ATCC33909 from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), and its clone DNA was then used for the template DNA of PCR.

The DNA fragment amplified with PCR was ligated to the HindIII site of plasmid pBluescript (KS+) cleaved with HindIII to form pBS-GGPS. A <u>crt</u>E gene portion was removed by cleaving plasmid Y-<u>crt</u>E with HindIII, and the remaining portion containing the PGK promoter and PGK terminator was self-ligated to form Y-PGK. The insert portion containing GGPS gene obtained by severing pBS-GGPS with HindIII was introduced at the HindIII site of Y-PGK to form Y-GGPS.

Example 2. Random Mutagenesis of GGPS Gene

A random mutation was introduced into the region coding for GGPS gene using nitrite according to the method of Myers et al. (Myers, R.M. et al. (1985) Science 229, 242-247). Single strand DNA was isolated from <u>E. coli</u> containing pBS-GGPS by infection with helper phage M13K07, and this was then treated for 60 minutes with 1 M sodium nitrite. Next, the complementary strand was synthesized as primer using chemical synthesis DNA 5'-CCCCCCTCGAGGTC-

GACGGTATCGATAA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 9) corresponding to the sequence of the T7 promoter portion. The GGPS gene portion was then extracted with HindIII restriction enzyme, introduced at the HindIII site of Y-PGK, and transformed to E, coli strain XLI-Blue to prepare the library.

5 Example 3. Yeast Transformation and Screening

The budding yeast, <u>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</u>, was transformed by the spheroplast method according to the method of Ashby et al. (Ashby, M.N. and Edwards, P.A (1990) J. Biol. Chem. 265, 13157-13164). Namely, HexPS-deficient strain C296-LH3 was transformed with the previously described plasmid library and cultured on leucine-deficient agar plate (leu' plate) using the top agar method (3% bactoagar, 0.67% yeast nitrogen base, 0.05% yeast extract, 0.05% bacto peptone, 1.0 M sorbitol and 2% glucose).

The transformant having the Leu⁺ phenotype was inoculated onto YEPG (1% yeast extract, 2% ethanol, 2% bacto peptone and 3% glycerol), D (1% yeast extract, 2% ethanol, 2% bacto peptone, 3% glycerol and 0.1% glucose) and YPD (1% yeast extract, 2% bacto peptone and 2% glucose) agar media followed by incubation for 3 days at 30°C. Clones were selected from the C2960-LH3 transformants with plasmid containing mutated GGPS that grew on the YEPG agar plate, grew and formed colonies larger than those of non-transformed C296-LH3 on the D plate.

This complemented phenotype is considered to indicate that the electron transport chain is active during the respiration reaction, or in other words, that a active coenzyme Q was synthesized in the C296-LH3 cells. Five clones having this complemented phenotype were obtained from 1,400 transformants. As a result of retesting the resulting five clones, not only were they able to grow on YEPG agar plates, but they also possessed the ability to form colonies that were clearly larger than those of YEpG3 Δ SpH/C296-LH3, having a plasmid that contains HexPS gene of yeast origin, on D agar plates. The plasmid DNA of these five clones were purified in accordance with routine methods.

These plasmids were named Y-GGPSmut1, y-GGPSmut2, Y-GGPSmut3, Y-GGPSmut4 and Y-GGPSmut5.

Furthermore, since yeast strain C296-LH3 is deficient in HexPS activity, it is unable to biosynthesize coenzyme Q6 which has a hexaprenol group on its side chain. Since coenzyme Q6 is required for non-fermentative metabolism, C296-LH3 forms colonies on media containing a small amount of glucose that are smaller than those of the wild strain, and does not grow on media that only contains a non-fermentative substrate like glycerol for the carbon source. Prior to screening for mutated activity, the effects of expression in wild type GGPS derived from <u>Sulfolobus acidocaldarius</u> were investigated.

On the D plates, strain Y-GGPS/C296-LH3, which is strain C296-LH5 having a plasmid containing the wild type GGPS gene, was found to clearly form colonies smaller than those of YEpG3\DeltaSpH/C296-LH3 although intermediate to YEpG3\DeltaSpH/C296-LH3, possessing a plasmid containing HexPS gene of yeast origin, and C296-LH3, not possessing a plasmid. However, Y-GGPS/C296-LH3 was unable to grow on the YEPG plate. This screening method was therefore confirmed to be useful.

Example 4. Determination of DNA Nucleotide Sequence and its Analysis

The nucleotide sequences of DNA coding for the five mutant GGPS contained in the five types of purified plasmids were determined using the Perkin-Elmer Model 373A Fluorescent DNA Sequencer according to the dideoxy chain termination method. Analysis of the nucleotide sequences was performed using the genetic data analysis software, Mac-MollyTetra.

The amino acid substitution sites as deduced from the nucleotide sequence of each mutant GGPS are shown in Fig. 1. Replacement sites were found at the nucleotide sequence level for all selected mutants. In the case of Mutant 1 which is the Y-GGPSmut1 insertion fragment, replacements were found consisting of mutant methionine at position 85 changing to isoleucine, mutant arginine at position 199 changing to lysine, and mutant aspartic acid at position 312 changing to asparagine. In the case of Mutant 2 which is the Y-GGPSmut2 insertion fragment, the only replacement was mutant phenylalanine at position 118 changing to leucine. In the case of Mutant 3 which is the Y-GGPSmut3 insertion fragment, mutant Phe at position 77 changed to serine, in the case of Mutant 4 which is the Y-GGPSmut4 insertion fragment, mutant phenylalanine at position 77 changed to leucine and mutant valine at position 99 changed to methionine, and in the case of Mutant 5 which is the Y-GGPSmut5 insertion fragment, mutant phenylalanine at position 77 changed to serine and mutant phenylalanine at position 77 changed to serine and mutant phenylalanine at position 101 changed to histidine.

A high proportion of these mutations consist of an aromatic amino acid residue being replaced with a non-aromatic amino acid residue. Phenylalanine at position 77 in particular has the most significant effect on the chain elongation reaction. Phenylalanine at position 77 is located at the five residues upstream from the N-terminal residue of an aspartate-rich domain 1. There are two aspartate-rich domain motifs (DDXX(XX)D) that are conserved in prenyl transferase. The diphosphate portion of the substrates are believed to bind here. The amino acid residue located at the fifth position upstream from the N-terminal residue of this aspartate-rich domain, which was focused on for the first time in the present invention, is considered to be extremely important in determining the chain length of the reaction product.

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Example 5

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A crude extract was prepared from the five selected clones (Y-GGPSmut1/C296-LH3, Y-GGPSmut2/C296-LH3, Y-GGPSmut3/C296-LH3, YGGPSmut4/C296-LH3 and Y-GGPSmut5/C-296-LH3) according to the method of Itoh et al. (Itoh, N. et al. (1984) J Biol. Chem. 259, 13923-13929).

Namely, the above-mentioned yeast was incubated for 4 days at 30°C. Approximately 400 μ g of cells were collected by centrifugation and washed once with 800 μ l of buffer A (50 mM Tris HCl pH 7.5, 5 mM MgCl₂, 50 mM dithiothreitol, 1 M sorbitol). The cells were then suspended in 1.2 mM butter B (50 mM Tris HCl pH 7.5, 5 mM MgCl₂, 3 mM dithiothreitol, 1 M sorbitol) followed by the addition of 0.8 mg of zymolyase and incubation for 1 hour at 30°C.

The prepared spheroblasts were washed three times with buffer B and suspended in 1 ml of buffer C (50 mM Tris HCl pH 7.0, 10 mM 2-mercaptoethanol, 1 mM phenylmethanesulfonyl fluoride, 1 mM EDTA). Ultrasonic treatment was performed 10 times on the suspension in ice at two minute intervals, performing treatment for 10 seconds at a time at maximum output using a Branson Sonifier. The lysates were incubated for 1 hour at 55°C, and after inactivating prenyl transferase(s) of the host cells, the lysates were centrifuged for 10 minutes at 10,000 x g. The resulting supernatant was used as a mutant GGPS crude enzyme solution and assay of prenyl transferase activity.

The results of performing an assay of prenyl transferase activity by LKC-18 thin layer chromatography using this mutant GGPS crude enzyme liquid prepared from yeast are shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

After carrying out the enzyme reaction at 55°C, polyprenyl diphosphate was extracted with 1-butanol after which the 1-butanol was evaporated with a nitrogen gas flow. The resulting polyprenyl diphosphate was treated with acid phosphatase in accordance with the method of Fujii et al. (Fujii et al. (1982) Biochim. Biophys. Acta. 712, 716-718). The hydrolysis product was extracted with pentane and after performing thin layer chromatography using acetone/H₂0 (9:1) for the developing solution, the distribution of radioactivity was analyzed with the Fuji Film Model BAS2000 Bio-image Analyzer. The alcohols as the authentic standards, on which thin layer chromatography was performed simultaneously, followed by staining with iodine vapor (geranyol, farnesol, geranylgeraniol), were used to determine the developing locations.

Fig. 2 shows the result of reacting using [1-¹⁴C]IPP and (all-E)-FPP for the substrates, while Fig. 3 shows the result of reacting using [1-¹⁴C]IPP and (all-E)-GGPP for the substrates. Spots a through c correspond to the authentic standard samples, a indicating geraniol, b indicating (all-E)-farnesol, and c indicating (all-E)-geranylgeranyol. Ori indicates the sample-stopping point, S.F. indicates the solvent front.

On the basis of these results, in the case of using GGPP for the allylic substrate, it was shown that each mutant GGPS is able to synthesize geranylfarnesyl diphosphate (GFPP) that is one isoprene unit longer than the reaction product of the wild type enzyme. On the other hand, the wild type GGPS is unable to synthesize the reaction product same as or longer than the chain length of GFPP at a level that allows detection. In the case of using FPP for the allylic substrate, the product ratio of GGPP/GFPP indicated by the mutant GGPS was different from each other.

Example 6. Preparation of Mutant GGPS from E. coli

In order to ensure that the analysis is performed more accurately, each mutant GGPS was over expressed in E. coli strain of XL 1-Blue. Namely, each of the five plasmids Y-GGPSmut1, Y-GGPSmut2, Y-GGPSmut3, Y-GGPSmut4 and Y-GGPSmut5 obtained in screening was digested with HindIII to obtain HindIII DNA fragments that code for the mutant GGPS. These HindIII DNA fragments were inserted at the HindIII site of the plasmid vector pBluescript (KS(+)) to obtain pBS-GGPSmut1, pBS-GGPSmut2, pBS-GGPSmut3, pBS-GGPSmut4 and pBS-GGPSmut5 respectively.

E. coli XL1-Blue was transformed with pBS-GGPSmut1, pBS-GGPSmut2, pBS-GGPSmut3, pBS-GGPSmut4 and pBS-GGPSmut5 and cultured according to the method described in Molecular Cloning (Sambrook, J. et al. (1989) Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2nd Ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, New York). After collecting the bacterial cells, the bacterial cells were ultrasonically homogenized in 50 mM Tris HCl buffer containing 10 mM 2-mercaptoethanol and 1 mM EDTA. After heat treating the homogenate for 1 hour at 55°C, it was centrifuged for 10 minutes at 100,000 x g. The supernatant was then collected as the crude enzyme solution which was assayed for PTase activity.

Assay was performed by analysis of product with LKC-18 thin layer chromatography and by determination of enzyme activity. For thin layer chromatography, DMAPP, GPP, (all-E)-FPP and (all-E)-GGPP were used for the allylic substrates, and after reacting in the same manner as Example 5, LKC thin layer chromatography was performed in the same manner as Example 5. Those results are shown in Figs. 4 and 5.

Fig. 4(A) is the result of reacting [1-¹⁴C]IPP with DMAPP for the substrate, and (B) is the result of reacting [1-¹⁴C]IPP with GPP for the substrate. Fig. 5(C) is a result of reacting [1-¹⁴C]IPP with (all-E)-FPP for the substrate, while (D) is a result of reacting [1-¹⁴C]IPP with (all-E)-GGPP for the substrate. Ellipses <u>a</u> through <u>c</u> show the positions of the authentic standard samples, <u>a</u> indicating geraniol, <u>b</u> indicating (all-E)-farnesol and <u>c</u> indicating (all-E)-geranylgeraniol. Ori indicates the sample-spoting point, while S.F. indicates the solvent front.

The prenyl transferase activity was assaied as follows. 1 ml of assay mixture, containing 25 nmol of [1-14C]IPP (37

GBq/mol), 25 nmol of allylic substrate (DMAPP, GPP, (all-E)-FPP or (all-E)-GGPP), 5 μ mol of MgCl₂, 10 μ mol of phosphate buffer (pH 5.8) and the enzyme solution, was incubated for 60 minutes at 55°C.

The reaction was stopped by cooling rapidly on ice. After adding 3.5 ml of water-saturated 1-butanol to the chilled mixture and shaking vigorously, the 1-butanol layer was washed with NaCl-saturated water and ¹⁴C radioactivity was measured with a liquid scintillation counter. 1 unit of enzyme activity was defined as the amount for which 1 nmol of [1-¹⁴C]IPP is incorporated into elongated prenyl diphosphate (polyprenyl diphosphate) that can be extracted with the 1-butanol layer. Those results are shown in the Table.

Table

		Tab	le			
Substrate	Relative Activ- ity (dpm)		Prod	uct Distrib	ution	
		GPP	FPP	GGPP	GFPP	FFPP
		%	%	%	%	%
Mutant 1						
DMAPP	31,800	23.2	8.77	29.6	38.0	0.45
GPP	5,260	nd*	38.8	30.9	30.4	0.02
FPP	4,340	nd*	nd*	65.1	35.0	nd*
GGPP	998	nd*	nd*	nd*	100	nd*
Mutant 2						
DMAPP	15,800	1.44	0.66	89.0	8.86	nd*
GPP	7,050	nd*	20.3	74.9	4.89	nd*
FPP	6,080	nd*	nd*	89.5	10.5	nd*
GGPP	379	nd*	nd*	nd*	100	nd*
Mutant 3						
DMAPP	24,900	3.40	27.4	16.6	51.6	0.92
GPP	9,890	nd*	64.7	9.37	24.5	1.44
FPP	7,280	nd*	nd*	30.4	69.6	nd*
GGPP	3,200	nd*	nd*	nd*	100	nd*
Mutant 4						
DMAPP	16,700	4.93	4.07	73.2	17.8	nd*
GPP	7,460	nd*	38.4	51.3	10.3	nd*
FPP	5,650	nd*	nd*	85.9	14.1	nd*
GGPP	551	nd*	nd*	nd*	100	nd*
Mutant 5						
DMAPP	23,600	27.1	18.6	12.8	40.4	1.12
GPP	9,070	nd*	59.3	13.0	26.1	1.56
FPP	8,960	nd*	nd*	32.0	68.0	nd*
GGPP	2,200	nd* ·	nd*	nd*	100	nd*
Wild type			-			
DMAPP	13,600	5.61	0.43	94.0	nd*	nd*
GPP	6,640	nd*	17.2	82.8	nd*	nd*
U	0,040					
FPP	4,650	nd*	nd*	100	nd*	nd*

nd: Not detected

Each mutant GGPS exhibited activity that synthesizes polyprenyl diphosphate having a longer chain length than GGPP. The wild type GGPS as well as each mutant GGPS reacted the best with DMAPP amongst the four allylic substrates. In addition, relative activity when allylic substrates were used that had a shorter chain length than FPP exhibited similar values. However, relative activity and product distribution when GGPP was used for the allylic substrate were considerably different.

When DMAPP, GPP and FPP were used for the allylic substrates, Mutant 1, which is coded for by the insert DNA of plasmid pBS-GGPSmut1, yielded the major reaction products of GFPP and GGPP. In particular, when DMAPP was used for the allylic substrate, only a slight amount of hexaprenyl diphosphate (HexPP) was detected as the reaction product. Although the distribution of reaction products varied between each allylic substrate, the proportion of product produced in one cycle of the condensation reaction was large.

In the case of Mutant 2 coded for by the insert DNA of plasmid pBS-GGPSmut2, the major product was GGPP and the proportion of GFPP was roughly 10%. HexPP was not detected.

Mutant 3, which is coded for by the insert DNA of plasmid pBS-GGPSmut3, and Mutant 5, which is coded for by the insert DNA of plasmid pBS-GGPSmut5, demonstrated similar characteristics. These mutants exhibited strong GFPP synthesis activity, while also synthesizing a small amount of HexPP.

Mutant 4, which is coded for by the insert DNA of plasmid pBS-GGPSmut4, yielded GGPP as the major product, while the proportion of GFPP was roughly 15%. FPP was effectively synthesized when GPP was used for the allylic substrate.

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25				20					25					30			
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	Ala	Ser	Tyr	His	Leu	Phe	Thr	Ser	Gly	Gly	Lys	Arg	Leu	Arg	Pro	Leu	
30	•		35					40					45				
30						TCA											192
	Ile	Leu	Thr	Ile	Ser	Ser	Asp	Leu	Phe	Gly	Gly	Gln	Arg	G1u	Arg	Ala	
		50					55					60					
35	TAT																240
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45	۷a]	His	Val	Lys	s Tyr	Gly	Leu	Pro	Leu	Ala	Ile	Leu	Ala	Gly	Asp	Leu	
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10	145					150)				155	-				160	
	ATT	GAT	ATA	AAG	GAG	CAG	GAA	TAC	CTT	GAC	ATG	ATC	TCA	CGT	AAG	ACA	528
	Ile	Asp	Ile	Lys	Glu	Gln	G1u	Tyr	Leu	Asp	Het	Ile	Ser	Arg	Lys	Thr	
					165					170					175		
15	GCT	GCA	TTA	TTC	TCG	GCA	TCC	TCA	AGT	ATA	GGC	ĢCA	CTT	ATT	GCT	GGT	576
	Ala	Ala	Leu	Phe	Ser	Ala	Ser	Ser	Ser	Ile	Gly	Ala	Leu	Ile	Ala	Gly	
				180					185					190			
20	GC T	AAT	GAT	AAT	GAT	GTA	AGA	CTG	ATG	TCT	GAT	TTC	GGT	ACG	AAT	CTA	624
20	Ala	Asn	Asp	Asn	Asp	Val	Arg	Leu	Met	Ser	Asp	Phe	G1y	The	Asn	Leu	
			195					200					205				
	GGT	TTA	GCA	TTT	CAG	ATT	GTT	GAC	GAT	ATC	TTA	GGT	CTA	ACA	GCA	GAC	672
25	.Gly																
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30					Gly												
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	AAG	ACT	ATA	CTT	GTA	ATA	AAA	ACA	CTG	GAG	CTT	TGT	AAA	GAG	GAC	GAG	768
	Lys	Thr	Ile	Leu	Va1	Ile	Lys	Thr	Leu	G1u	Leu	Cys	Lys	Glu	Asp	G1u	
35					245					250					255		
	AAG	AAG	ATT	GTC	CTA	ÄAG 1	GCG	TTA	GGT	TAA	AAG	TCA	ĠĊc`	TCA	AÀA	GAA	816
	Lys	Lys	I1e	Val	Leu	Ly s	Ala	Leu	Gly	Asn	Lys	Ser	Ala	Ser	Lys	Glu	
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40	GAA	TTA	ATG	AGC	TCA ·	GCA	GAT	ATA	ATT	AAG .	AAA '	TAC	TCT	TTA	GAT	TAT	864
	Glu i	Leu	Met	5er	Ser .	Ala	Asp	Ile	Ile	Lys	Lys '	Tyr	Ser :	Leu .	Asp	Tyr	
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40	CAT	GAT	GAT	ATT	ATA	GAT	CAA	GAT	AAT	ATC	AGA	AGA	GGG	TTA	ccc	ACA	288
	His	Asp	Asp	Ile	Ile	Asp	Gln	Asp	Asn	Ile	Arg	Arg	Gly	Leu	Pro	Thr	
		•			85					90					95		
	GTC	CAC	GTG	AAA	TAC	GGC	TTA	ССС	ATT	GCA	ATA	TTA	GCT	GGG	GAT	TTA	336
45	Val	His	Val	Lys	tyr	Gly	Leu	Pro	Leu	Ala	Ile	Leu	Ala	Gly	Asp	Leu	
				100					105					110			
	CTA	CAT	GCA	AAG	GCT	TTT	CAG	CIC	TTA	ACC	CAG	GCT	CTT	AGA	GGT	TTG	384
50	Leu	His	Ala	L <b>y</b> s	Ala	Phe	Gin	Leu	Leu	Thr	Gln	Ala	Leu	Arg	Gly	Leu	
			115					120					125				-

	CCA	AGT	GAA	ACC	ATA	ATT	AAG	GCT	TTC	GAT	ATT	TTC	ACT	CCI	TCA	ATA	432
	Pro	Ser	Glu	Thr	Ile	Ile	Lys	Ala	Phe	Asp	Ile	Phe	Thr	Arg	Ser	Ile	
5		130					135					140					
	ATA	ATT	ATA	TCC	GAA	GGA	CAG	GCA	GTA	GAT	ATG	GAA	TTT	GAG	GAC	AGA	480
	Ile	Ile	I1e	Ser	Glu	Gly	Gln	Ala	Val	Asp	Met	Glu	Phe	Glu	Asp	Arg	
10	145					150					155	-				160	
	ATT	GAT	ATA	AAG	GAG	CAG	GAA	TAC	CTT	GAC	ATG	ATC	TCA	CGT	AAG	ACA	528
	Ile	Asp	Ile	Lys	Glu	G1n	Glu	Tyr	Leu	Asp	Met	Ile	Ser	Arg	Lys	Thr	
					165					170					175		
15	GCT	GCA	TTA	TTC	TCG	GCA	TCC	TCA	AGT	AŢA	GGC	GCA	CTT	ATT	GCT	GCT	576
	Ala	Ala	Leu	Phe	Ser	Ala	Ser	Ser	Ser	Ile	Gly	Ala	Leu	Ile	Ala	Gly	
				180					185					190			
20	GCT	AAT	GAT	AAT	GAT	GTA	AAA	CTG	ATG	TCT	GAT	TTC	GGT	ACG	AAT	CTA	624
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25	Gly	Ile	Ala	Phe	Gln	11e	Val	Asp	Asp	I1e	Leu	Gly	Leu	Thr	Ala	Asp	
		210					215					220					
	gaa	AAG	GAA	CTT	GGA	AAG	CCT	GTT	TTT	AGT	GAT	ATT	AGG	GAG	GGT	AAA	720
30	Glu	Lys	Gļu	Leu	Gly	Lys	Pro	Val	Phe	Ser	Asp	Ile	Arg	Glu	Gly	Lys	
	225					230					235					240	
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	AAG	AAG	ATT	GTC	CTA	AAG	GCC	TTA	GGT	TAA	AAG	ICA	CCC	TCA	AAA	GAA	816
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10	Seq	uen	ce I	eng	th:	99	3					•					
	Seg	uen	ce I	, <b>àb</b> e	: l	Nucl	eic	aci	id								
	Str	andı	ness	:	Doul	ole	str	and									
45	Тор	olo	gy:	Li	near	ר											
15	Mol	ecu.	lar	Тур	e:	Mut	ate	d ge	enon	nic	DNA				•		
	\$eq	пец	ce				<b>_</b>					<u>ር</u> ቁጥ	4 4 T	ጥሮተ	GTA.	AAC	48
			TAC														,,,
20	Met	Ser	Tyr	Phe	Asp	Asn	Tyr	Phe	Asn		ITe	ASI	Asn	per	15	Van	
					5					10				<b>ድ</b> ሞል		C 0 6	96
																GAA	50
25	Asp	Ile	Ile	Lys	Ser	Tyr	Ile	Ser		Asp	Val	Pro	Lys		ıyı	GIG	
				20					25				-	30	CCA	<b>ተተ</b> ለ	144
																TTA	144
	Ala	Ser	Tyr	His	Leu	Phe	Thr		Gly	Gly	Lys	Arg		Arg	Pro	Leu	
30			35					40					45	<b>6.4</b>		CCT	192
			ACT														192
	Ile	Leu	Thr	Ile	Ser	Ser	Asp	Leu	Phe	G1y	Gly		Arg	GLU	Arg	ATE.	
35		50					55					60					340
																GTG	240
	Tyr	Tyr	Ala	Gly	Ala	Ala	Ile	Glu	Val	Leu	His	Thr	Ph∈	Thr	Leu	Va1	
40	65					70					75					80	200
40																ACA	288
	His	Asp	Asp	He	Met	Asp	Gln	Asp	Asn	Ile	Arg	Arg	Gly	Leu		Thr	
					85					90					95		226
45																TTA	336
	Val	His	Val	Lys	Tyr	Gly	Leu	Pro	Leu	Ala	Ile	Leu	Ala	Gly	Asp	Leu	
				100					105					110			
50																TIG	384
30	Lev	, Bis	Ala	Lys	Ala	Leu	Gln	Leu	Leu	The	Gln	Ala	Leu	Arg	Gly	Leu	
			115	6				120	)				125				

	CCA	AGT	GAA	ACC	ATA	ATI	DAA 1	GC1	TTC	C GA	TA 1	TTC	ACT	r cgi	[ TCA	ATA	432
5	Pro	Ser	Glu	Thr	Ile	Ile	Lys	Ala	Phe	e Asp	p Ile	Phe	The	Arg	, Ser	Ile	
		130					135	•				140	)				
	ATA	ATT	ATA	TCC	GAA	GGA	CAG	GCA	GTA	A GAT	r atg	GAA	TTI	GAG	GAC	AGA	480
	Ile	Ile	Ile	Ser	Glu	Gly	Gln	Ala	Va1	Asp	) Het	Glu	Phe	Glu	Asp	Arg	
10	145					150	)				155	•				160	
	ATT	GAT	ATA	AAG	GAG	CAG	GAA	TAC	CTI	GAC	ATG	ATC	TCA	CGT	AAG	ACA	528
	I1e	Asp	Ile	Lys	Glu	Gln	Glu	Tyr	Leu	Asp	Met	Ile	Ser	Arg	Lys	Thr	
					165					170	1				175		
15	GCT	GCA	ATT	TTC	TCG	GCA	TCC	TCA	AGT	ATA	GGC	GCA	CTT	ATT	GCT	GGT	576
	Ala	Ala	Leu	Phe	Ser	Ala	Şer	Ser	Ser	Ile	Gly	Ala	Leu	Ile	, Ala	Gly	
				180					185					190		-	
20	GCT	AAT	GAT	AAT	GAT	GTA	AGA	CTG	ATG	TCT	GAT	TTC	GGT	ACG	AAT	CTA	624
	Ala	Asn	Asp	Asn	Asp	Val	Arg	Leu	Met	Ser	Asp	Phe	Gly	Thr	Asn	Leu	
			195					200					205				
	GGT	ATT	GCA	TTT	CAG	ATT	GTT	GAC	GAT	ATC	TTA	GGT	CTA	ACA	GCA	GAC	<del>6</del> 72
25	GLy	Ile	Ala	Phe	Gln	I1e	Val	Asp	Asp	Ile	Leu	Gly	Leu	Thr	Ala	Asp	
		210					215					220					
	GAA	AAG	GAA	CTT	GGA	AAG	CCT	GTT	TTT	AGT	GAT	ATT	AGG	GAG	GGT	AAA	720
20	Glu	Lys	Glu	Leu	Gly	Lys	Pro	Va1	Phe	Ser	Asp	I1e	Arg	Glu	Gly	Lys	
30	225					230					235					240	
	AAG	ACT	ATA	CTT	GTA	ATA	AAA	ACA	CTG	GAG	CTT	TGT	AAA	CAG	GAC	GAG	768
	Lys	Thr	Ile	Leu	Val	Ile	Lys	Thr	Leu	Glu	Leu	Cys	Lys	Glu	Asp	Glu	
35					245					250					255		
	AAG ·	AAG	ATT:	GTC·	CTA ·	AAG	GCG	TTA	GGT	AAT	AAG	TCA	ccc	TCA	AAA	GAA	816
	Lys	Lys	Ile	Val	Leu	Lys	Ala	Leu	Gly	Asn	Lys	Ser	Ala	Ser	Lys	Glu	
				260					265					270			
40	GAA	TTA	ATG	AGC	TCA	GCA	GAT	ATA	ATT	AAG	AAA	TAC	TCT	ATT	GAT	TAT	864
	Glu	Leu	Met	Ser	Ser	Ala	Asp	Ile	Ile	Lys	Lys	Tyr	Ser	Leu	Asp	Tyr	
			275					280-					285				
45	GCA	TAC	AAT	TTA	GCA	GAG	AAA	TAT	TAT	AAA	AAT	GCT	ATA	GAC	TCI	TTA	912
-	Ala	Tyr	Asn	Leu	Ala	G1u	Lys	Tyr	Tyr	Lys	Asn	Ala	Ile	Asp	Ser	Leu	
		290					295					300					
	TAA	CAA	GTC	TCC '	TCT .	AAG	AGT	GAT	ATA	CCT	GGA	AAG	ÇCT	TTA .	AAA	TAT	960
50	Asn	Gln '	Val	Ser :	Ser	Lys	Ser .	Asp	Ile	Pro	Gly	Lys	۸la	Leu	Ly s	Tyr	
	305					310					315					320	

	CTA	GCT	GAA	TTT	ACG	ATA	AGA	AGG	AGA	AAA	TAA						993
	Leu	Ala	Gļu	Phe	Thr	Ile	Arg	Arg	Arg	Lys							
5					325					330							
	SEÇ	) ID	NO	: 4	ŀ												
10	Seg	lnev	ce ]	Lenç	jth:	9	93										
	Seg	uen	ce :	Гуре	:	Nuc.	leic	: ac	id								
	Str	and	nes	5:	Dou	ble	sti	and									
	Top	olo	gy:	Li	.nea	r											
15	Mol	ecu	lar	Typ	e:	Mu	tate	ed g	eno	mic	DNA						
	Seg	uen	ce														
	ATG	AGT	TAC	TTT	GAC	AAC	TAT	TTT	AAT	ĢAG	ATT	GTT	AAT	TCT	GTA	AAC	48
20	Het	Ser	Tyr	Phe	Asp	Asn	Tyr	Phe	Asn	G1u	Ile	Val	Asn	\$er	Val	Asn	
					5					10					15		
	GAC	ATT	ATT	AAG	AGC	TAT	ATA	TCT	GGA	GAT	GTT	CCT	AAA	CTA	TAT	GAA	96
05	Asp	Ile	Ile	Lys	Ser	Tyr	Ile	Ser	Gly	Asp	Val	Pro	Lys	Leu	Tyr	Glu	
25				20					25					30			
	GÇC	TCA	TAT	ÇAT	TTG	TTT	ACA	TCT	GGA	GGT	AAG	AGG	TTA	AGA	CCA	ATT	144
	Ala	Ser	Tyr	His	Fen	Phe	Thr	Ser	Gly	Gly	Lys	Arg	Leu	Arg	Pro	Leu	
30			35					40					45				
	ATC	ATT	ACT	ATA	TCA	TCA	GAT	TTA	TIC	GGA	GGA	CAG	AGA	GAA	AGA	GCT	192
	Ile	Leu	Thr	Ile	Ser	Ser	Asp	Leu	Phe	Gly	Gly	Gln	Arg	Glu	Arg	Ala	
35		50					55					60					
and a second second	TAT																240
	-	Tyr	Ala	Gly	Ala		Ile	Glu	Val	Leu		Thr	Ser	Thr	Leu		
	65					70	_				75					80	
40		GAT .															288
	HIS	Asp	Asp	116		Asp	Gln	Asp	Asn		Arg	Arg	Gly	Leu		Thr	
	cro	C4.C	<b>5</b> 00		85		<b></b>	000	~~1	90			A 6 6		95	<b>.</b>	226
45		CAC															336
	vai	His	VAI		Tyr	GIÀ	Leu	Pro		Ala	lle	Leu	Ala		Asp	Leu	
	O	a. •	<b>.</b>	100					105					110		mmc.	201
50		CAT															384
	LEU	His		гÀг	YIZ	LUG	PTU		Leu	ınr	GID	ALA		Arg	GIÀ	rea	
			115					120					125				

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	CCA	AGT	GAA	ACC	ATA	ATT	AAG	GC1	TTC	GAT	TA T	TTC	AC1	r ce	T TCA	ATA	432
	Pro	Ser	Glu	The	Ile	Ile	Lys	Ala	Phe	. Asp	Ile	Phe	Thi	r Ar	g Ser	Ile	
5		130	)				135					140	)				
	ATA	ATT	ATA	TCC	GAA	GGA	CAG	GCA	GTA	GAT	ATG	GAA	TT	GA	GAC	AGA	480
	Ile	Ile	Ile	Ser	Glu	Gly	Gln	Ala	Va1	Asp	Met	Glu	Phe	. Glu	ı Asp	Arg	
10	145					150					155	-				160	
10	ATT	GAT	ATA	AAG	GAG	CAG	GAA	TAC	CTT	GAC	ATG	ATC	TÇA	. CG1	AAG	ACA	528
	Ile	Asp	Ile	Lys	Glu	Gln	Glu	Tyr	Leu	Asp	Met	Ile	Ser	Arg	Lys	Thr	
					165					170					175	•	
15	GCT	GCA	TTA	TTC	TCG	GCA	TCC	TCA	AGT	ATA	GGC	GCA	CTT	ATT	GCT	GGT	576
	Ala	Ala	Leu	Phe	Ser	Ala	Ser	Ser	Ser	Ile	Gly	Ala	Leu	Ile	Ala	Gly	
				180					185					190			
20	GCT	AAT	GAT	AAT	GAT	GTA	AGA	CTG	ATG	TÇT	GAT	TTC	GGT	ACG	AAT	CTA	624
20	Ala	'Asn	Asp	Asn	Asp	Val	Arg	Leu	Met	Ser	Asp	Phe	Gly	Thr	Asn	Leu	
			195					200					205				
															GCA		672
25	Gly	Ile	Ala	Phe	Gln	Ile	Val	Asp	Asp	Ile	Leu	Gly	Leu	Thr	Ala	Asp	
		210					215					220					
															GGT		720
30		Lys	Glu	Leu	Gly		Pro	Val	Phe	Ser	Asp	Ile	Arg	Glu	Gly	Lys	
30	225					230					235					240	
															GAC		768
	Lys	Thr	TTE	Leu		lle	Lys	Thr	Leu		Leu	Cys	Lys	Glu	Asp	Glu	
35	440	A 6.00	A ምጥ	<b>~</b> m ~	245	440	505	<b></b>		250					255	_	
													-		AAA,		816 .
	r. A 2	Lys	TIE	260	Dea	гуѕ	Ala	Leu		Asn	Lys	ser	AIA		Lys	GIU	
40	GAA	TTA	ATC.		<b>ጥ</b> ሶ ል	CC A	ር ለ ጥ	ል ጥ ል	265	A A C		***	<b>~~</b>	270	~ . ~	T 4 F	264
70		•													GAT Asp		864
	014		275	JCI	Set	nia .		280	TIE	Lys	Lys			Fed	Asp	lyr	
	GĈA			<b>Τ</b> ΤΔ	GCA	CAG			ጥልጥ	A A A	4 A T		285	CAC	TCT	<b>T</b> T 4	017
45															Ser		912
		290			n z g		295	.,.	* 7 *	Буз		300	116	vsh	361	rea	
			CTC	TCC	ТСТ			GAT	ΑΤΑ	COT			CCT	ተጥል	AAA	ፐልጥ	960
50															Lys		<del>3</del> 00
JU	305	-	_			310	- =	- r			315	- , <del>.</del>			-, ,	320	

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1.23

	CTA GCT	GAA	TTT	ACG	ATA	AGA	AGG	<b>A</b> GA	AAA	TAA						993
	Leu Ala	Glu	Phe	Thr	Ile	Arg	Arg	Arg	Lys	TER						
5				325					330							
	SEQ ID	NO:	5													
10	Sequenc	e L	eng	th:	99	3					,					
	Sequenc	e T	ype	: 1	Nucl	eic	ac:	id								
	Strand	ess	=	Doul	ble	str	and									
	Topolog	y;	Li	nea:	r											
15	Molecul	lar	Тур	e:	Mut	ate	d ge	SVOI	nic	DNA				•		
	Sequenc													am 1	- 4.0	48
	ATG AGT															40
20	Met Ser	Tyr	Phe	Asp	Asn	Tyr	Phe	Asn		He	Val	Asn	Ser		ASII	
				5					10				an.	15	C A A	96
	GAC ATT															90
25	Asp Ile	Ile		Ser	Tyr	Ile	Ser		Asp	val	Pro	ry 5	30	LyL	GIU	
			20	##6	<b></b>	404	<b>ተ</b> ረጥ	25	CCT	440	ACG	ТТД		CCA	TTA	144
	GCC TCA															
	Ala Ser		HIS	Leu	rne	INE	3er 40	GIY	GIY	Lys	MIE	45	477 5			
30	ATC TTA	35	ልጥል	ጥሮ ል	<b>ጥ</b> ሮ ል	CAT	•	TTC	GGA	GGA	CAG		GAA	AGA	GCT	192
	Ile Leu															
	TTE LEG	101	TIE	SEL	ner	55	DÇU	1110	٠.,	O.,	60			Ū		
35	TAT TAT	CC A	:CGT	CCA	. GCT	_	GAA	GTT	СТТ	CAT	ACT	CTT	ACG	CTT	GTG	240
	Tyr Tyr															
	65	*****	,	•••	70		- <del>-</del>			75					80	
40	CAT GAT	GAT	ATT	ATG	GAT	CAA	GAT	AAT	ATC	AGA	AGA	GGG	TTA	CCC	ACA	288
	His Asp															
	•	-		85					90					95		
4-	GTC CAC	ATG	AAA	TAC	GGC	TTA	ccc	TTA	GCA	ATA	TTA	CCT	ÇGG	GAT	TTA	336
45	Val His															
			100					105					110			
	CTA CAT	GCA	AAG	GCT	TTT	ÇAG	CTC	TTA	ACC	CAG	GCT	CTT	AGA	GGT	TTG	384
50	Leu His	Ala	Lys	Ala	Phe	Gln	Leu	Leu	The	Gln	Ala	Геп	Arg	G1y	Leu	
		115					120					125				

	CCA	AGT	GAA	ACC	ATA	ATT	AAG	GCT	TTC	GAT	ATT	TIC	ACT	CGT	TCA	ATA	432
	Pro	Ser	Glu	Thr	I1e	Ile	Lys	Ala	Phe	Asp	Ile	Phe	Thr	Arg	Ser	Ile	
5		130					135					140					
	ATA	ATT	ATA	TCC	GAA	GGA	CAG	GCA	GTA	GAT	ATG	GAA	TTT	GAG	GAÇ	AGA	480
	Ile	Ile	Ile	Ser	Glu	Gly	Gln	Ala	Val	Asp	Me t	G1u	Phe	Glu	Asp	Arg	
10	145					150					155	-				160	
	ATT	GAT	ATA	AAG	GAG	CAG	GAA	TAC	CTT	GAC	ATG	ATC	TCA	CGT	AAG	ACA	528
	Ile	Asp	Ile	Lys	Glu	Gln	Glu	Tyr	Leu	Asp	Met	Ile	Ser	Arg	Lys	Thr	
					165					170					175		
15	GCT	CCA	TTA	TTC	TCG	GCA	TCC	TCA	ACT	ATA	GGC	GCA	CTT	TTA	GCT	GGT	576
	Ala	Ala	Leu	Phe	Ser	Ala	Ser	Ser	Ser	Ile	Gly	Ala	Leu	Ile	Ala	G1y	
				180					185					190			
00	GCT	TAA	GAT	TAA	GAT	GTA	AGA	CŢG	ATG	TCT	GAT	TTC	GGT	ACG	AAT	CTA	624
20	A1a	Asn	Asp	Asn	Asp	Va1	Arg	Leu	Met	Ser	Asp	Phe	Gly	Thr	Asn	Leu	
			195					200					205				
	GGT	ATT	GCA	TTT	CAG	TTA	GTT	GAC	GAT	ATC	TTA	GGT	CTA	ACA	GCA	GAC	672
25	Gly	Ile	Ala	Phe	Gln	Ile	Val	Asp	Asp	Ile	Leu	Gly	Leu	Thr	Ala	Asp	
	-	210					215					220					
	GAA	AAG	GAA	CTT	GGA	AAG	CCT	GTT	TTT	AGT	GAT	ATT	AGG	GAG	GCT	AAA	720
	Glu	Lys	Glu	Leu	Gly	Lys	Pro	Val	Phe	Ser	Asp	Ile	Arg	Glu	Gly	Lys	
30	225					230					235					240	
	AAG	ACT	ATA	CTT	GTA	ATA	AAA	ACA	CTG	CAG	CTT	TGT	AAA	GAG	GAC	GAG	768
	Lys	Thr	Ile	Leu	Val	Ile	Lys	Thr	Leu	Gļu	Leu	Cys	Lys	G1u	Asp	Glu	
<i>35</i>					245					250					255		
•	AAG	AAC	ATT	GTC	CTA .	<b>ķ</b> ĀĢ	'cce	TTA	GGT	ĄAT	AAG	TÇA	GCC	TCA	AAA	GAA	816
	Lys	Lys	Ile		Leu	Lys	Ala	Leu		Asn	Lys	Ser			Lys	Glu	
			_	260	_				265					270			
40							GAT										864
	Glu	Leu		Ser	Ser	Ala	Asp		Ile	Lys	Lys	Tyr		Leu	Asp	Tyr	
			275			_		280					285				
 4 <b>5</b>							AAA										912
	Ala	-	Asn	Leu	Αla	Glu	Lys	Tyr	Tyr	Lys	Asπ		Ile	Asp	Ser	Leu	
	_	290		<b></b> -			295		_			300					
							AGT										960
50		Gln	Vai	Ser	Ser	_	Ser	<b>As</b> p	Ile	Pro	•	Ly s	Ala	Leu	Lys		
	305					310					315					320	

	CTA GCT	GAA TTI	ACG AT	A AGA	AGG AGA	AAA TA	A			993
	Leu Ala	Glu Phe	thr II	e Arg	Arg Arg	Lys TE	R			
5			325			330				
	SEQ I	No:	6							
10	Sequen	ce Leng	gth: 9	93			•			
	Sequen	ce Type	e: Nuc	leic	acid					
	Strand	lness:	Double	str	and					
45	Topolo	gy: L	inear							
15	Molecu	lar Typ	pe: Mu	tate	d genor	nic DNA	A	-		
	Sequen									
								T TCT GTA		48
20	Met Ser	Tyr Phe	-	Tyr	Phe Asn		Val Ası	ı Şer Val		
			5			10		15		
								CTA TAT		96
<i>2</i> 5	Asp Ile			Ile		Asp Val	Pro Lys	Leu Tyr	СТП	
		20			25	005 446	400 000	30	መጥ ል	111
								AGA CCA		144
	Ala Ser	•	teu Phe	rnr .	_	Gry ras	_	Arg Pro	Leu	
30	100 001	35	do. mc.	OATS :	40 ##A ###	664 664	65 646 AG		CCT	192
								GAA AGA		176
	50		Ser Sei	. ASP . 55	red File	GIY GIY	en vr	g Glu Arg	N+4	
35			CCA CCT		GAA CTT	CTT CAT	•	ACG CTT	r.TG	240
								Thr Leu		<b>-</b> , ',-
	65	nia diy	70		ora -ar	75		1112 200	80	
40		GAT ATT	-		GAT AAT	_	·	TTA CCC		288
40								Leu Pro		
	•		85			90		95		
	GTC CAC	GTG AAA	CAC GGC	TTA (	CCC TTA	GCA ATA	TTA GC1	GGG GAT	TTA	336
45	Val His	Val Lys	His Gly	Leu	Pro Leu	Ala Ile	Leu Ala	Gly Asp	Leu	
		100	-		105			110		
	CTA CAT	GCA AAG	GCT TTT	CAG	CTC TTA	ACC CAG	GCT CT1	AGA GGT	TTG	384
50								Arg Gly		
		115			120		125			

	CCA	AGT	GAA	ACC	ATA	ATT	AAG	GCT	TTC	GAT	ATT	TTC	ACT	ÇGT	TCA	ATA	4.	32
	Pro	Ser	Glu	Thr	Ile	Ile	Lys	Ala	Phe	Asp	Ile	Phe	Thr	Arg	Ser	Ile		
5		130					135					140					•	
	ATA	ATT	ATA	TCC	GAA	GGA	ÇAG	GÇA	GTA	GAT	ATG	GAA	TTT	GAG	GAC	AGA	41	80
	Ile	Ile	Ile	Ser	Glu	Gly	Gln	Ala	Val	Asp	Met	Glu	Phe	Glu	Asp	Arg		
10	145					150					155	-				160		
	ATT	GAT	ATA	AAG	GAG	CAG	GAA	TAC	CIT	GAC	ATG	ATC	TCA	CGI	AAG	ACA	52	28
	Ile	Asp	Ile	Lys	Çlu	Cln	G1u	Tyr	Leu	Asp	Met	Ile	Ser	Arg	Lys	Thr		
					165					170					175			
15	GCT	GCA	TTA	TTC	TCG	GCA	TCC	TCA	AGT	ATA	GGC	GCA	CTT	ATT	GCT	GGT	57	76
	Ala	Ala	Leu	Phe	Ser	Ala	Ser	Ser	Şer	Ile	Gly	Ala	Leu	Ile	Ala	Gly		
				180					185					190				
20	GCT	AAT	GAT	AAT	GAT	GTA	AGA	CTG	ATG	TCT	GAT	TTC	GGT	ACG	AAT	CTA	62	<u> </u>
	Ala	Asn	Asp	Asn	Asp	Val	Arg	Leu	Met	Ser	Asp	Phe	Gly	Thr	Asn	Leu		
			195					200					205					
	GGT	TTA	GCA	TTT	CAG	TTA	GTT	GAC	GAT	ATC	ATT	GGT	CTA	ACA	GCA	GAC	67	! 2
25	Gly	Ile	Ala	Phe	Gln	Ile	Val	Asp	Asp	Ile	Leu	Gly	Leu	Thr	Ala	Asp		
	•	210					215					220						
	GAA	AAG	GAA	CTT	GGA	AAG	CCT	GIT	TTT	AGT	GAT	ATT	AGG	GAG	GGT	AAA	72	20
<i>30</i>	Glu	Lys	Glu	Leu	G1y	Lys	Pro	Val	Phe	Ser	Asp	Ile	Arg	Glu	Gly	Lys		
 	225					230					235					240		
	AAG	ACT	ATA	CTT	GTA	ATA	AAA	ACA	CTG	GAG	CTT	TGT	AAA	GAG	GAC	GAG	76	8
	Lys	Thr	I1e	Leu	Val	Ile	Lys	Thr	Leu	Glu	Leu	Cys	Lys	Glu	Asp	Glu		
35					245					250					255			
	AAG	AAG	ATT	GTC	CTA	AAG	CCG	TTA	GGT	AAT	AAG	ŤCA	GCC	TCA	AAA	GAA	81	6
	Lys	Lys	Ile	Val	Leu	Lys	Ala	Leu	Gly	Asn	Lys	Ser	Ala	Ser	Lys	G1u		
				260					265					270				
40	GAA	TTA	ATG	AGC	TCA	GCA	GAT	ATA	ATT	AAG	AAA	TAC	TCT	ATT	GAT	TAT	86	<b>;</b> 4
	Glu	Leu	Met	Ser	Ser	Ala	Asp	I1e	Ile	Lys	Lys	Tyr	Ser	Leu	Asp	Tyr		
			275					280					285					
45	GCA	TAC	AAT	TTA	GCA	GAG	AAA	TAT	TAT	AĄA	TAA	GCT	ATA	GAC	TCT	TTA	91	912
	Ala	Tyr	Asn	Leu	Ala	Glu	Lys	Tyr	Tyr	Lys	Asn	Ala	Ile	Asp	Ser	Leu		
		290					295					300						
	AAT	CAA	GTC	TCC	TCT	AAG	AGT	GAT	ATA	CCT	GGA	AAG	GCT	ATT	AAA	TAT	96	50
50	Asn	Gln	Val	Ser	Ser	Lys	Ser	Asp	Ile	Pro	Gly	Lys	Ala	Leu	Lys	Туг		
	305					310					315					320		

993 CTA GCT GAA TTT ACG ATA AGA AGG AGA AAA TAA Leu Ala Glu Phe Thr Ile Arg Arg Lys TER 5 330 325 SEQ ID NO: 7 10 Sequence Length: 26 Sequence Type: Nucleic acid Strandness: Single strand Topology: Linear 15 Molecular Type: Synthetic DNA Sequence 26 AAGAGAAGCT TATGAGTTAC TTTGAC 20 SEQ ID NO: 8 Sequence Length: 21 Sequence Type: Nucleic acid 25 Strandness: Single strand Topology: Linear Molecular Type: Synthetic DNA 30 Sequence 21 GATACAAGCT TTATTTTCTC C 35 SEQ ID NO: 9 Sequence Length: 28 Sequence Type: Nucleic acid 40 Strandness: Single strand Topology: Linear Molecular Type: Synthetic DNA Sequence 45 28 CCCCCTCGA GGTCGACGGT ATCGATAA

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The present invention discloses a mutated enzyme comprising a geranylgeranil diphosphate synthase having its origin in wild type <u>Sulfolobus acidocaldarius</u> wherein, one of at least phenylalanine at position 77, methionine at position 85, valine at position 99, tyrosine at position 101, phenylalanine at position 118, arginine at position 199 and aspartic acid at position 312 is substituted with another amino acid.

#### Claims

1. A mutated enzyme wherein at least one of phenylalanine at position 77, methionine at position 85, valine at position 99, tyrosine at position 101, phenylalanine at position 118, arginine at position 199 and aspartic acid at position 312

in a geranylgeranil diphosphate synthase of <u>Sulfolobus acidocaldarius</u> origin, is replaced with another amino acid, which enzyme is able to form prenyl diphosphate having at least 25 carbon atoms, or a modified mutant enzyme that is modified by replacing, deleting and/or adding one to several amino acids, which enzyme maintains the activity of the above-mentioned enzyme.

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- 2. An enzyme as set forth in claim 1 wherein at least phenylalanine at position 77 is substituted with another amino acid,
- 3. An enzyme as set forth in claim 2 wherein said amino acid is a non-aromatic amino acid.

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- 4. An enzyme as set forth in claim 2 wherein phenylalanine at position 77 is substituted with a non-aromatic amino acid.
- 5. An enzyme as set forth in either claim 2 or claim 3 wherein valine at position 99 is further substituted by another amino acid.
  - 6. An enzyme as set forth in either daim 2 or daim 3 wherein tyrosine at position 101 is further substituted by another amino acid.
- 20 7. An enzyme as set forth in claim 1 wherein at least methionine at position 85, arginine at position 199, and aspartic acid at position 312 are substituted with other amino acids.
  - 8. An enzyme as set forth in claim 1 wherein at least phenylalanine at position 118 is substituted with another amino acid.

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- 9. A gene that codes for an enzyme as set forth in any of claims 1 through 8.
- 10. An expression vector that contains a gene as set forth in claim 9.
- 30 11. A host transfected by an expression vector as set forth in claim 10.
  - 12. A process for production of an enzyme according to claim 11 in a process for producing an enzyme as set forth in any of claims 1 through 8. Claim 1, comprising the steps of

culturing host cells transformed with an expression vector comprising a gene coding for the enzyme of claim 1, and recovering the enzyme.

13. A process for production of a mutated prenyl diphosphate synthase comprising the step of:

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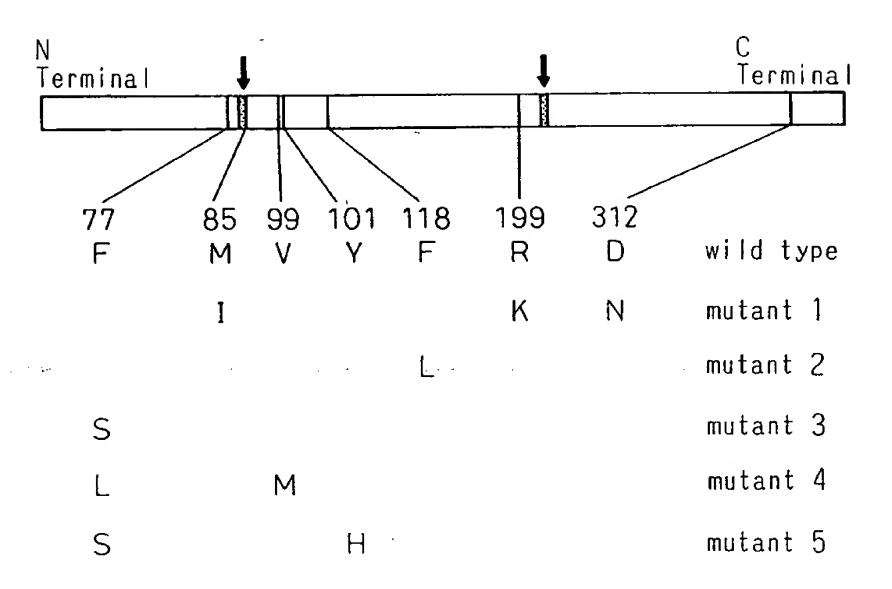
culturing host cells transformed with a gene mutated by substitution of a codon for the amino acid residue at fine upstream to the amino terminal of the aspartic acid-rich domain 1 with a codon for a non-aromatic amino acid residue so as to express the mutated prenyl diphosphate synthase which can produce longer chain of prenyl diphosphate than those produced by the original wild-type prenyl diphosphate synthase.

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14. A process for production of a prenyl diphosphate equal to or larger than those having 25 carbon atoms, comprising reacting an enzyme according to any one of claims 1 to 8 or an enzyme produced by a process according to claim 12 or 13 with a substrate selected from isopentenyl diphosphate, dimethylallyl diphosphate, geranyl diphosphate and geranylgeranyl diphosphate.

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Fig. 1



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Fig.2

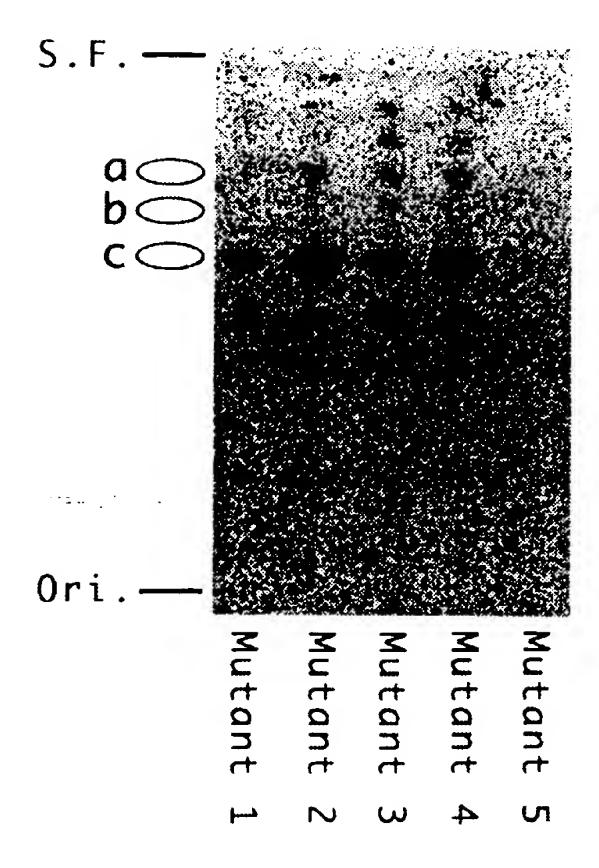
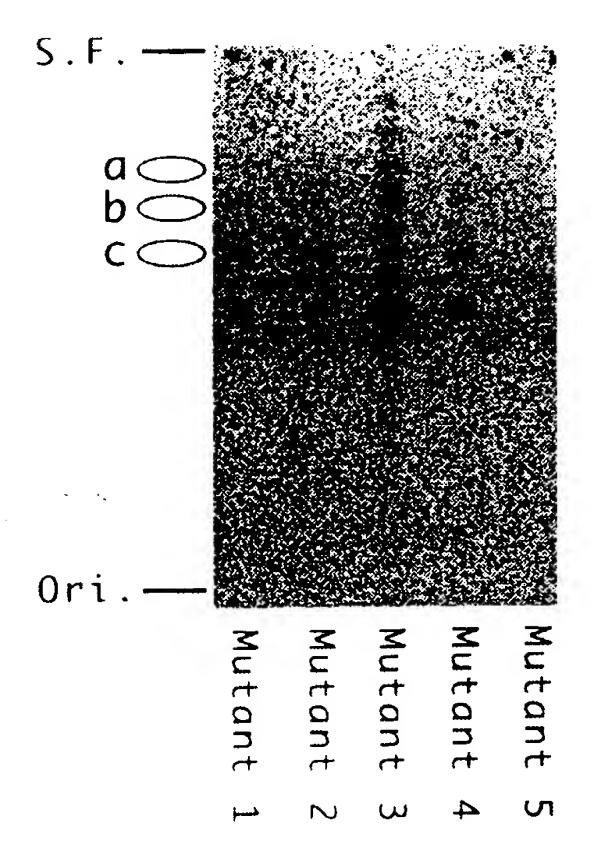
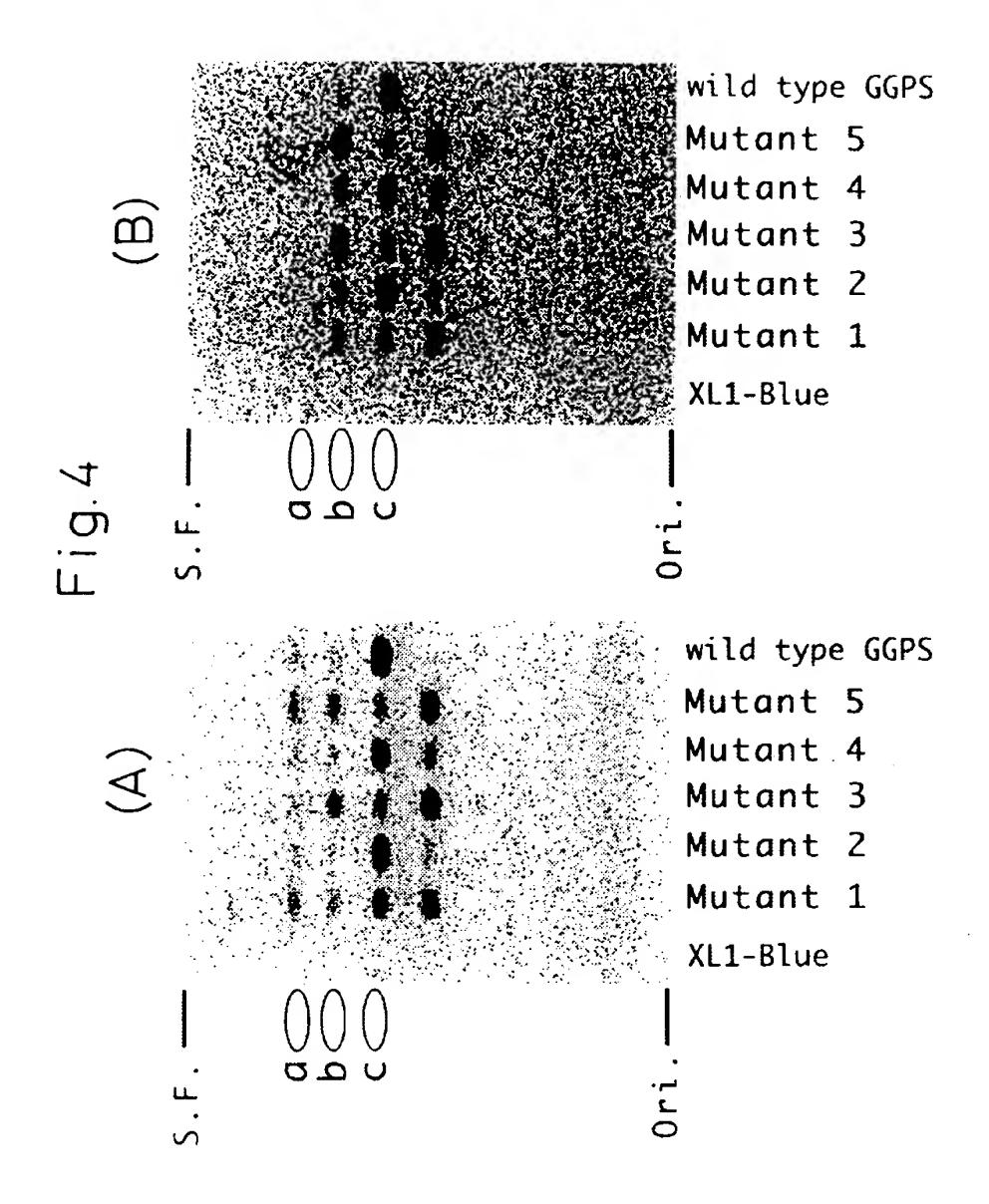
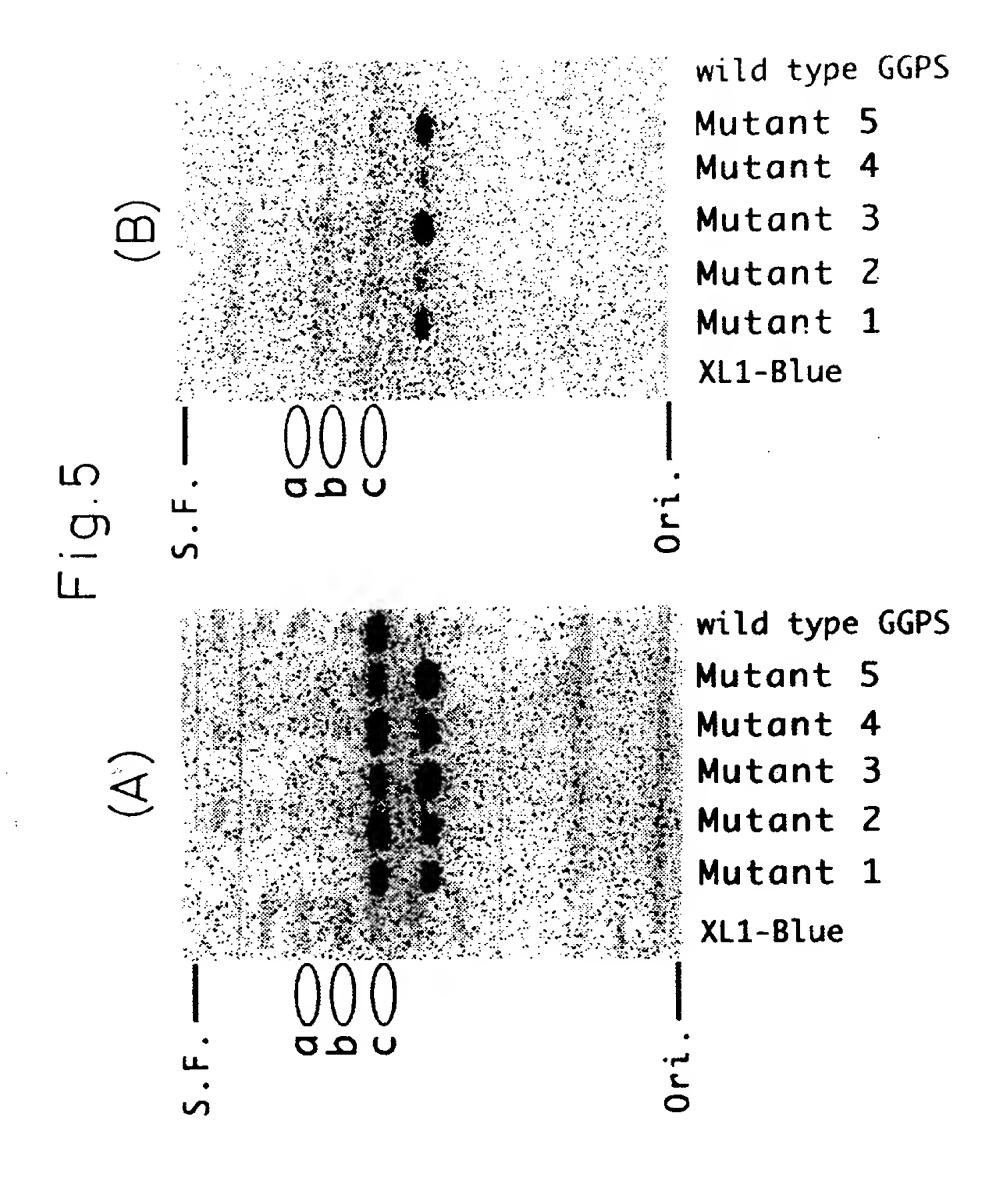


Fig.3

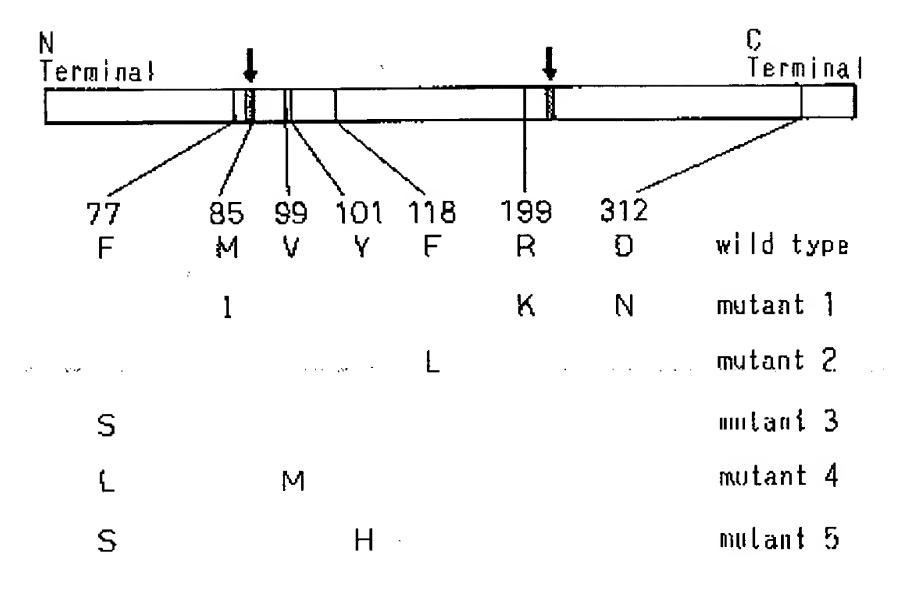






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Fig. 1



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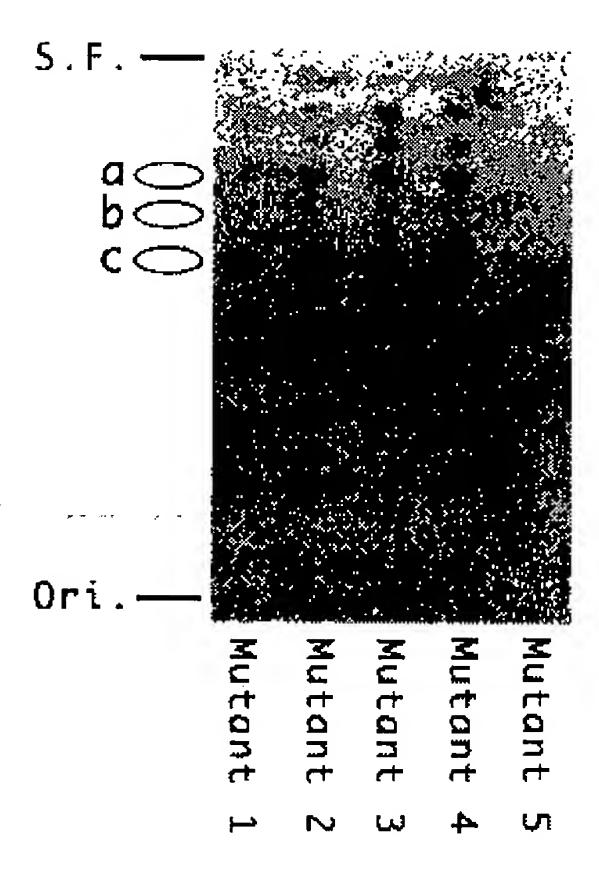
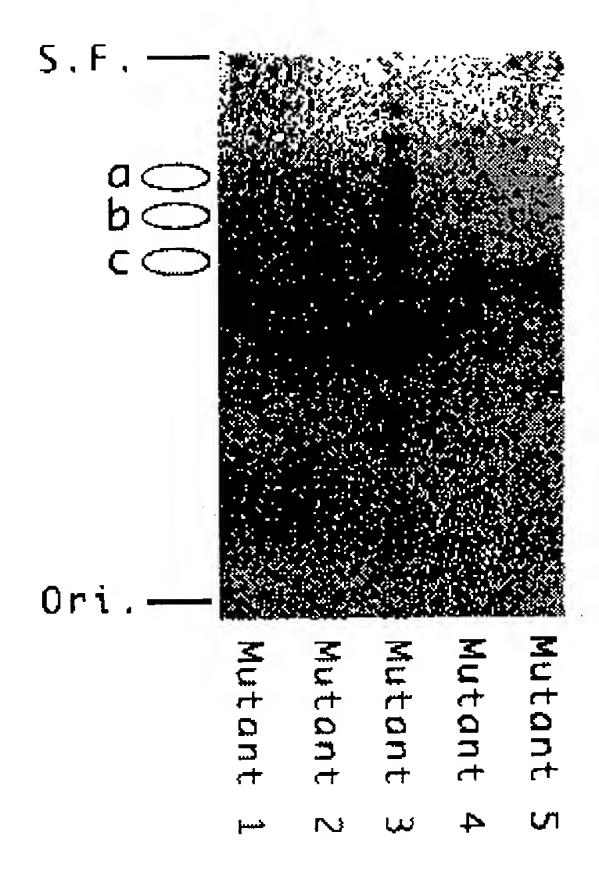
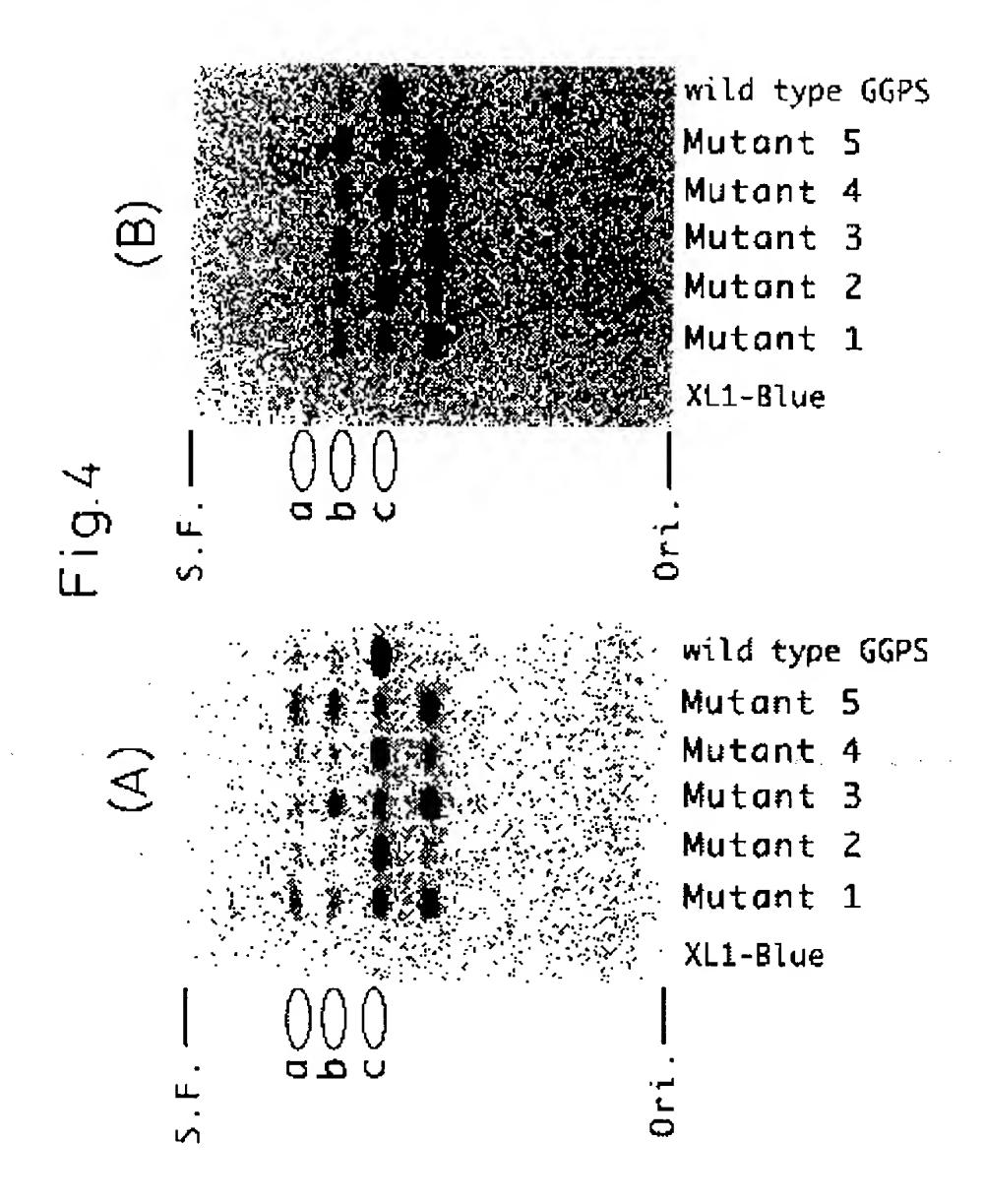
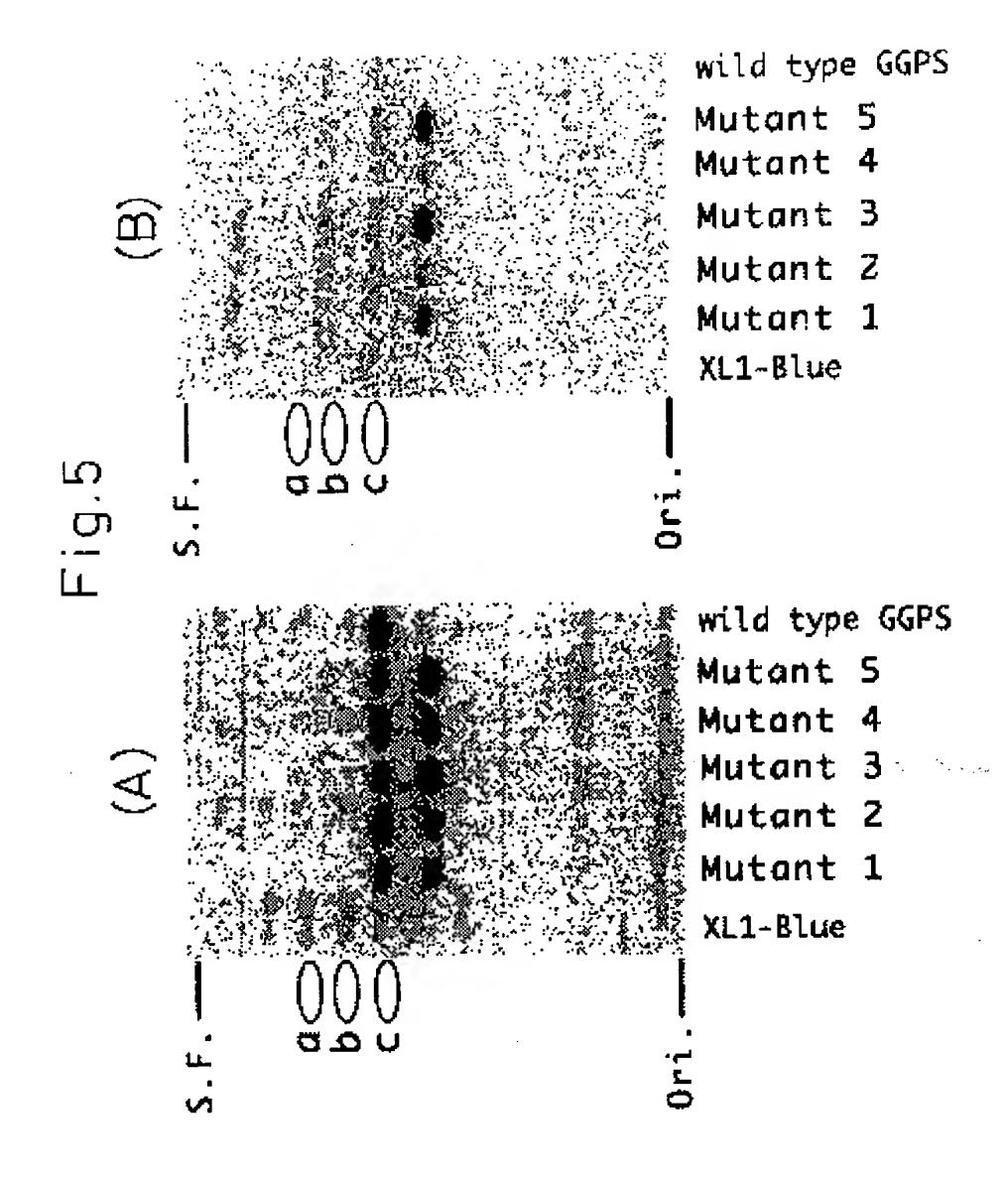


Fig.3







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## **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

- (88) Date of publication A3: 30.07.1997 Bulletin 1997/31
- (43) Date of publication A2: 19.03.1997 Bulletin 1997/12
- (21) Application number: 96113930.0
- (22) Date of filing: 30.08.1996

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: **C12N 9/10**, C12N 15/31, C12N 15/54, C12N 15/63, C12N 1/21, C07K 14/195

(11)

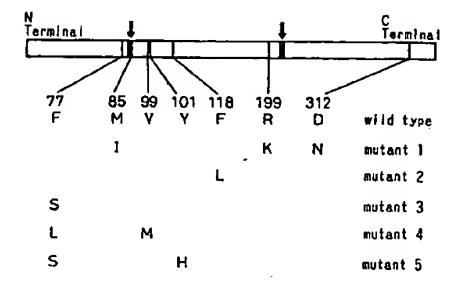
- (84) Designated Contracting States: BE CH DE FR GB IT LI SE
- (30) Priority: 01.09.1995 JP 247043/95
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## (54) Long-chain prenyl diphosphate synthase

(57) The present invention discloses a mutated enzyme comprising a geranylgeranil diphosphate synthase having its origin in wild type <u>Sulfolobus acidocaldarius</u> wherein, one of at least phenylalanine at position 77, methionine at position 85, valine at position 99, tyrosine at position 101, phenylalanine at position 118, arginine at position 199 and aspartic acid at position 312 is substituted with another amino acid.

Fig. 1



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## **EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number EP 96 11 3930

	DOCUMENTS CONSI	DERED TO BE RELEVAN	Γ						
Category	Citation of document with i	ndication, where appropriate, ssages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)					
P,X		996, XP002031065 AL.: "Convertion of of archaebacterial osphate synthase"	1-14	C12N9/10 C12N15/31 C12N15/54 C12N15/63 C12N1/21 C07K14/195					
A	conserved aspartate	992, XP002031066 : "Effects of enesis of the highly residues in domain II hate synthase activity"	1-14						
				TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Inc.Cl.6)					
				C12N					
				C07K					
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	The present search report has b	een drawn up for all claims							
	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	<u> </u>	Examiner					
	MUNICH	16 May 1997	Mar	rie, A					
X : par Y : par doc	CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUME ticularly relevant if taken alone ticularly relevant if combined with an ament of the same category	NTS T: theory or principl E: earlier patent doc after the filing da other D: document cited in L: document cited for	T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons						
A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document			4 : member of the same patent family						